

FY-14 Budget

Revenues Are Focus of First City Council FY-14 Budget Worksession

by James Giese

The Greenbelt City Council held this year’s first budget worksession on April 3 to review revenue estimates. All councilmembers were present as were City Manager Michael McLaughlin and Finance Director Jeff Williams. At the same meeting council reviewed the General Government proposed budgets (see story below).

For the past four years, city revenues have been flat at about \$24 to \$25 million, McLaughlin told council. There is nothing to indicate significant improvement in the future, even though there are some signs of economic improvement, as the city will not have its property reassessed for tax purposes until 2015 and property taxes remain the largest source of city revenue (approximately two-thirds of all revenue).

At \$24,708,600, McLaughlin’s revenue estimate is \$821,100 less than for the current year. Revenues

would have been even lower had McLaughlin not proposed a 2 cent increase in the property tax rate, which will yield \$3.6 million in added revenues and applied \$200,000 of undesignated fund balance (surplus) to pay for two one-time only budget expenditures – \$100,000 to apply to extraordinary worker’s compensation expenses that are not expected to be repeated and another \$100,000 to pay for the cost of implementing the recommendations of an organizational assessment study.

The city has a policy of maintaining undesignated reserves of at least 10 percent of the operating budget in case some costly unforeseen expense occurs. However, at the end of this year, these reserves are estimated to be at 12.3 percent of budget. Mayor Judith Davis asked if more reserve funds could be applied to the budget. McLaughlin said

yes, but felt that they should be used only for one-time expenses, since if they were used to sustain continuing expenses, there would not be funds available for those expenses in future years.

The second largest revenue is the city’s share of local income taxes. McLaughlin sees some promise of improvement there, increasing the new budget’s estimate by 2 percent over the current year’s estimate to \$2.23 million. Davis asked if McLaughlin had considered the impact of sequestration and federal government employee furloughs on income taxes. McLaughlin said that while he had not, he felt his estimate was quite conservative.

City Fees

McLaughlin does not propose any adjustment to most fees for city services. However, the city will be looking at revising waste

See **REVENUES**, page 6

Greenbelt South Core Back On Development Fast Track

by Kathleen Gallagher

The recent buzz about Greenbelt Station had been all about the North Core. Would the ghost of J. Edgar Hoover wander the streets of Greenbelt or those of some town in the Old Dominion? Not to be outdone, the South Core has recently taken a leap forward as a result of its purchase on February 27 by Virginia-based NVR, Inc. If NVR’s vision holds true, the “Bridge to Nowhere” (off Greenbelt Road just past Indian Creek) may soon be going somewhere and Greenbelt Station may be welcoming its first “pioneers” in about a year.

On March 20 the Greenbelt City Council held a worksession to meet the new ownership and development team and to review the status of the project. All members of council were present.

City Manager Michael McLaughlin and Director of Planning and Community Development Celia Craze attended from

the city staff.

Representatives of the new owners and development team included: Michael Lippe, NVR; Chuck Hart, NVHomes; Steve Fishman, Ryan Homes; Michael German and Justin Frye, Woodlawn Development Group; Alex Villegas, Dewberry (architectural and engineering consultants); and Norman Rivera, attorney for the Woodlawn Development Group.

South Core Site

The South Core is an 87-acre mixed-use site for which the city had previously approved up to 983 residential units for development. Plans also include such amenities as trail systems for bikes and pedestrians that will eventually connect to the Metro station, a central park and a nature interpretation center. In addition, funding will be included in support of police and

See **SOUTH CORE** page 6

FY-14 Budget

General Government Shows Little Change from Previous Fiscal Year

by James Giese

As with most other budgets to be reviewed this year, the Greenbelt City Council’s review of the budgets grouped under the General Government section of the city budget for Fiscal Year 2014 raised little concern, excitement or interest. With flat, even declining revenues, neither City Manager Michael McLaughlin nor the councilmembers, all of whom were present at the April 3 worksession, were able to propose significant new ventures. Instead of making dramatic cuts, McLaughlin left city operations for the most part intact, but operating on a leaner structure.

At \$2.6 million, the proposed budget is slightly greater, \$18,900 than last year’s (this will be an election year, an added biennial expense of \$38,800). General Government uses a little more than 10 percent of the total budget, and includes budgets for city council, administration, elections, finance and administrative services, information technology, legal counsel, cost of operating the municipal building and more. Staffing remains the same in the new budget with 18.5 employees.

Administration expenses are down almost \$30,000 over this year’s estimated expenses largely due to not rebudgeting additional funds for a one-time consulting

contract. In finance, there were savings in professional services because a report on retirement benefits needs to be conducted only every other year and the other services budget was reduced due to rebidding banking services, thereby reducing bank fees. This budget is \$14,300 lower than this year’s estimated expenses.

IT Budget

The budget for information technology (IT) is up nearly \$20,000 from the current year’s budget. This rise is due to increased employee benefits for an employee who was reclassified from hourly to classified and by increased annual costs for email services (offset by no longer needing to make extensive capital expenses periodically).

Director of Information Technology Dale Worley, who was present at the worksession, provided council with a list of departmental accomplishments over the past five years, noting that his staff was “up to their eyeballs in workload.” Another chart in the budget compares Greenbelt with the IT industry average. The IT budget is two percent of the Greenbelt budget; the industry average is 5.4 percent. Industry average spending per user is nearly twice as much as Greenbelt’s expenses. McLaughlin

agreed with Worley’s assessment of staff workload but noted that this was “an across-the-board city problem.”

The city has entered into a new contract for website services with City Plus. It provides assistance in setting up the site and has provided the city with a list of functions they could perform that the city is not doing. Each department will be able to directly input its site, thereby reducing the workload of the Public Information Office. Adding new windows are optional and will not add to the cost of services. City staff is starting to implement this service.

The municipal building budget remains nearly identical to the current year’s budget. However, current year’s expenses exceeded the budget due to needed roof replacement.

ATHA

Mayor Judith Davis told council that the Anacostia Trail Heritage Association (ATHA) is seeking money to market the hiking trail that ends in Greenbelt. It was noted that owners of new development at the Greenbelt Metro Station should participate in this contribution when development occurs. However, Davis proposed adding to the council’s annual “wish list” a city contribution of \$500.

Council Proclaims April 20 As Earth Day, Arbor Day

by Barbara Hopkins

Earth Day and Arbor Day both will be celebrated on April 20 and Greenbelt’s Public Works Department will hold an Open House from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. that day as well, with displays of equipment and with environmental groups present to share information.

Mayor Judith Davis read proclamations at the April 8 meeting of the Greenbelt City Council recognizing both commemorations.

Earth Day

This year’s event will be the 43rd anniversary of Earth Day. Events include a planting at the Three Sisters Demonstration Garden led by Maggie Cahalan of the Chesapeake Education Arts Research Society (CHEARS) and a presentation on Food Forest Design by Food Forest Landscape Designer Lincoln Smith.

A short presentation will be held at 2 p.m. on how soil connects to the watershed. Presenters will be two students from

Greenbelt Middle School who won third prize in the county STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fair. According to Tony DiMeglio of the program, their project was part of the GMS Tap Roots program designed to foster ecological stewardship. Funding for some of their equipment came through the Greenbelt Community Foundation.

Forest Preserve

Susan Barnett told council the occasion will also include celebration of the 10th anniversary of Greenbelt’s Forest Preserve. A forest art project will be ongoing throughout the day next to the playground area at Springhill Lake. Kids “of all ages” are welcome to draw nature scenes that will be woven together to create an art quilt to be displayed at the Green Man Festival in May and at the New Deal Café.

Another Forest Preserve event

See **APRIL 20**, page 7

What Goes On

- Saturday, April 13**
9 a.m. to noon, Donation Drop-off, Parking Lot between City Offices and the Community Center
- Monday, April 15**
8 p.m., Council Budget Worksession on CARES, Municipal Building, Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and streaming at www.greenbeltnmd.gov
- Wednesday, April 17**
8 p.m., Council Budget Worksession on Public Works, Community Center

Letters to the Editor

THANKS!

Many thanks to Greenbelt American Legion Post 136, Elizabeth Gaines, Jennifer and Rick Bailey, Beth Hancock, Pat and Lee Hilling, Eduardo and Jody Polon, Richard Jones and Bill Novick for donating to the Kenmoor Middle School DonorsChoose.org project.

The purpose of the project was to purchase an LCD projector to be used with after-school clubs. Being able to share research and ideas on a screen that we can all observe to discuss information together is very useful in the learning process.

Partly as a result of this purchase, the school's Future City and Debate teams have been very successful this year. The Future City team competed in the National Future City Competition and the Debate team won several debate competitions with the District of Columbia Urban Debate League. Many students and adults from Greenbelt are involved in this program.

These donations have broadened and expanded the students' view of the world and allowed us to think critically and creatively about what we see and read. Thank you for support in improving educational opportunities for our students!

*Beth Novick,
TAG Coordinator
Kenmoor Middle School*

THANKS

Thank you to all the kind people of Greenbelt who have given my son and me a lot of help and prayers before and after my emergency surgery for a brain aneurysm.

Mary Lehman of the Prince George's County Council and her wonderful staff have been life savers, as well as Greenbelt Councilmember Edward V.J. Putens and Michael Moore of Greenbelt American Legion Post #136.

There are also a multitude of friends (guardian angels) who have given us a lot of encouragement, love and support.

I thank you all and shall keep you in my prayers for all time.

*Mary Anne
McAndrew-Scott*

Donations Sought Now For SHL Rec Center

I am asking for the help of your paper to get the word out that donations are needed to help the Springhill Lake Recreation Center at 6101 Cherrywood Lane.

There are children from so many backgrounds in this area. After visiting the recreation center we found too little equipment and activities for participants – there is basketball available, though everyone doesn't play basketball. There is one computer room with a few computers for the large number of children who use the recreation center. Many leave because there aren't enough other things to do.

So much is needed to bring this recreation center up to date to help the many children who use it. As a grandmother who sees all kinds of children come and go there, I am asking for help to bring a safe summer to the Springhill Lake area with no cost to the children.

A ball, a rope and so much more is needed

P. Reaves

Editor's Note: Call Brian Butler, SHL Rec. Center staff, for suggestions at 301-397-2212.

Women's and Men's Choruses to Perform

The University of Maryland Women's Chorus and Men's Chorus will give a combined free performance of "Around the World in 80 Minutes," on Friday, April 19 at 8 p.m. in the Dekelbourn Concert Hall of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center on campus.

This rousing concert will feature music from Asia, Africa, Europe, South America and North America, all transcribed or arranged for choirs by some of the most celebrated composers of choral music.

Seating is first-come, first-served, beginning at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit claricesmithcenter.umd.edu or call 301-405-2787.

Girl Scouts Plan Stream Clean Up

On Saturday, April 20 from 9 a.m. to noon, Junior Girl Scout Troop 5859 will have a community stream clean up at Braden Field, next to the Aquatic Center.

This project is for the Bronze Award. "It's the highest award a Junior Girl Scout earns," said Jenny Grier. Troop member Viola Pitts explained, "It's a leadership adventure." When discussing the project, Hail-ee Christian continued, "It's not just for the Bronze Award. We're cleaning up plant and animal habitats."

Many of the girls remember playing in the stream when they were younger. "When we were Daisy Girl Scouts we cleaned the stream and filled lots of bags of trash," said Lizzie Serra. The troop is working with Greenbelt Public Works Department and the event is listed on the Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF) website <http://trashnetwork.fergusonfoundation.org/event/2084/show>.

The Girl Scouts hope many in the community will come to help with the event. "We want to clean all the trash around the stream," said Asha Brown. "And we should all wear old clothes because you will get dirty," added Mary Alyce Yoho.

"If you're taking little steps and you want to take bigger ones," concluded Naomi Aubert, "come help us."

— Karen Yoho


New Parent Open House at GES April 19

A New Parent Open House will be held at Greenbelt Elementary School (GES) on Friday, April 19 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. for those planning to enroll a child in the school for the first time.

Sponsored by the school's PTA, newcomers to GES are invited to come meet school staff and parent members of the PTA, join in a tour of the school, observe a classroom and talk with parents whose children are already enrolled.

GES is at 66 Ridge Road.

Grin Belt



". . . And your generous donation of surplus peeps is tax-deductible"

On Screen

Hell on a Pair of Wheels

Opening at Old Greenbelt Theatre on Friday, April 12 is "The Place Beyond the Pines," with tattooed motorcycle stunt driver Luke (Ryan Gosling) fetching up again at a fair in Schenectady, N.Y. Luke gets entangled with former flame Romina (Eva Mendes) and Robin (Ben Mendelsohn), a local mechanic who's big on bikes. Challenging chases scoped by director Derek Cianfrance (who directed Gosling in "Blue Valentine") ensue, together with the intrusion of a city policeman (Bradley Cooper) and the role that Luke's father has played in his life.

R. Running time: 140 minutes.

— Eli Flam

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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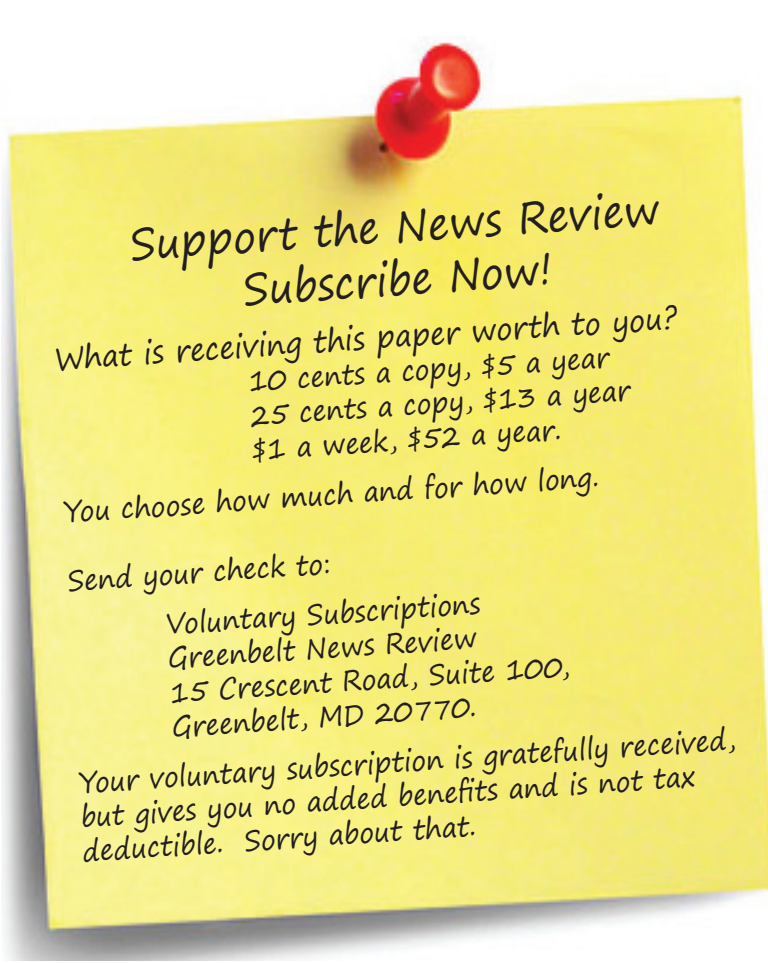
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DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$45/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.



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OLD GREENBELT THEATRE

WEEK OF April 12

Place Beyond the Pines
(R)

Friday
*5, 8

Saturday – Sunday
*2, *5, 8

Monday – Thursday
*4:45, 7:30

*These shows at \$6.50
Tuesday is Bargain Day.
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Community Events

At the Library

Adult Programs
Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m.: In a lecture series created by African American historian and author/lecturer C.R. Gibbs, guest lecturer Rosemary Reed-Miller will present a retrospective on the ways black designers have energized and fundamentally altered America's sense of fashion and style, in "African Women in Fashion, 1800 to the Present."
Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m.: Adult Book Discussion of Mitchell Zuckoff's "Lost in Shangri-la: A True Story of Survival, Adventure, and the Most Incredible Rescue Mission of World War II." Former Boston Globe reporter Zuckoff unleashes the story of a mission to New Guinea's jungles to rescue a trio of U.S. military personnel whose plane crashed in the South Pacific.

Storytimes
On Wednesdays and Thursdays, a librarian reads age-appropriate stories to children and parents using imagination and props. Pick up a free ticket from the information desk.
Wednesday, April 17, 10:30 a.m., Drop-in Storytime for ages 3 to 5 years.
Thursday, April 18, 10:30 a.m., Toddler Time for ages 18 to 35 months with caregiver.
For more information visit the library, call 301-345-5800 or pgcmls.info for a number of library services, to review accounts or renew materials. For automated phone renewal call 301-333-3111.

GHI Notes

Thursday, April 11, 7:30 p.m., Board of Directors Meeting – Board Room
Friday, April 12, Office Closed. For Emergency Maintenance Service call 301-474-6011.
Tuesday, April 16, 7:30 p.m., Companion Animal Committee Meeting – GHI Lobby
Wednesday, April 17, 7 p.m., New Member Social – Board Room 7 p.m., Woodlands Committee Meeting – GHI Lobby
Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m., Finance Committee Meeting – Board Room
Note: Committee and board meetings are open; members are encouraged to attend.

Green Man Will Need Kids' Activity Items

The Green Man Festival, to be held at Roosevelt Center May 11 and 12 invites those who live, work and play in Greenbelt to celebrate nature and get in touch with the green spirit.
Among this year's activities for kids are making a miniature fairy garden, building fairy houses for a fairy village, decorating ordinary objects with natural items and a recycling scavenger hunt – and the festival needs community help to "build a village" by helping supply materials for those hands-on activities.
What is needed are items from nature such as acorns, pine cones, reeds, bark leaves and other things that can be used by creative hands to build a village. Volunteers are asked to walk around and bring back items to be used in the kids' village construction. Also needed are paper towel tubes, milk cartons, small boxes, colored construction paper or poster board and other items that can be the start of a tiny house or small metal, plastic, glass items pieces of cloth and short pencils or dowels for a planned scavenger hunt.
Materials are needed by May 4 or 5; call 202-664-7572 or email stonesoupchef@live.com to schedule a time for pick up.

Local Toastmasters Club to Meet April 17

The Greenbelt Toastmasters club will meet Wednesday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Church, in the smaller education building located behind the church.
Toastmasters offers a supportive environment for individuals from all walks of life to improve skills in communication and leadership. Members learn to lose the fear of public speaking, become better listeners and build skills for success.
Visitors are welcome at the meetings, which are held every two weeks.
For details on the Greenbelt club, visit www.meetup.com/Greenbelt-Toastmasters.
For information on Toastmasters International, go to www.toastmasters.org.

April Demos, Wine Tastings at Co-op

During April Co-op will hold a nutrition workshop, a food demonstration and Friday night wine tastings.
Tuesday, April 16 there will be a free workshop at the Youth Center at 7 p.m. on food sensitivities. "Discovering Food Sensitivities: Introduction to the Sensitive Seven and Elimination Diet" requires pre-registration and will need at least 10 enrolled participants to be held. To register email membership@greenbelt.coop.
On Wednesday, April 24 there will be a food demonstration on asparagus and a wine tasting from 4 to 6 p.m. That is also Patron Appreciation Day, with five percent savings.
The Friday night wine tastings will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on April 12 (tomorrow) and 19.
For more information, visit www.greenbelt.coop.

Talk on Vintage Lamps At Holy Cross Church

On Saturday, April 13 at 10 a.m. a meeting of the Del-Mar-Va Depression Glass Club with a discussion and display of vintage lamps will be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 6905 Greenbelt Road.
All are welcome. For more information call Helen or Sheldon Chazin at 301-565-2361 or email ybrian@verizon.net.

More Community Events can be found throughout the paper.

Explore Meditation With K. Boverman

On Friday, April 19 Katrina Boverman will present an Explorations Unlimited workshop on meditation at 1 p.m. in Room 114, the Senior Classroom, at the Greenbelt Community Center.
In "Take a Break and Meditate," Boverman will teach simple meditation principles that have been used for centuries to relax. Participants will also be led through soothing, guided meditations to help calm their minds and bodies.
Boverman is a licensed clinical social worker with over 30 years' experience and holds a master's degree in the applied healing arts. She has a private practice in Greenbelt devoted to empowering, guiding and facilitating personal and professional change.
Explorations Unlimited is held every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. All are welcome to attend and questions are encouraged.
For details call 301-397-2208.

Kale-a-Rama Coming To Center April 20

The first ever Kale-a-Rama Festival will come to Roosevelt Center on Saturday, April 20 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Think of it as a (vegan) cross between Burning Man and Woodstock – so anything green and vegan goes! Vegan prankster, Gary Brown, and his merry Bushmaster Blues Band kale-line the festival music.

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WEEK OF APRIL 12
FRIDAY – SATURDAY – TUESDAY
Scary Movie 5, PG-13 (!)
11:30, 2:25, 4:35, 7:40, 9:50
42, PG-13 (!)
11, 1:45, 4:25, 7:20, 10
The Evil Dead, PG-13 (!)
11:35, 2:30, 4:40, 7:45, 9:55
Jurassic Park in 2D, PG-13 (!)
11
Jurassic Park in 3D, PG-13 (!)
1:45, 4:25, 7:20, 10
Tyler Perry's: Temptation, PG-13
11:20, 1:50, 4:30, 7:30, 10
Olympus Has Fallen, R
11:05, 1:40, 4:25, 7:25, 10:05
G.I. Joe Retaliation in 2D, PG-13
11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:55
G.I. Joe Retaliation in 3D, PG-13
9:50
The Croods in 2D, PG
2:15, 7:05, 9:25
The Croods in 3D, PG
12, 4:30

SUNDAY – MONDAY – WEDNESDAY – THURSDAY
Scary Movie 5, PG-13 (!)
11:30, 2:25, 4:35, 7:40
42, PG-13 (!)
11, 1:45, 4:25, 7:20
The Evil Dead, PG-13 (!)
11:35, 2:30, 4:40, 7:45
Jurassic Park in 2D, PG-13 (!)
11
Jurassic Park in 3D, PG-13 (!)
1:45, 4:25, 7:20
Tyler Perry's: Temptation, PG-13
11:20, 1:50, 4:30, 7:30
Olympus Has Fallen, R
11:05, 1:40, 4:25, 7:25
G.I. Joe Retaliation in 2D, PG-13
11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:55
The Croods in 2D, PG
2:15, 7:05
The Croods in 3D, PG
12, 4:30



Greenbelt Nursery School's Tortoise and Hare 5K Run/Walk
Saturday April 27, 8am, around Greenbelt Lake.
1K Fun run 9am - \$5
Packet pickup Friday April 26 from 5-7:30 pm
Saturday April 27, 7:00 am at Greenbelt Nursery School
Advance registration \$20; Race Day registration \$30
Online Registration Ends April 23 at www.getmeregistered.com



Babe Ruth Baseball Signups
Players age13-15 call Mark @ 301 755-3315
Email: mark.markowich@t-mobile.com
Players age16-18 call Bob @ 301 345-1033
Email: bbsoneveldt@verizon.net



Greenbelt Arts Center Starts on Friday!

BIG RIVER
April 12th - May 4th
Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00pm
Sunday Matinees (April 21 & 28) at 2:00pm
Ticket prices: \$20 General Admission \$17 Students/Seniors/Military
Take our GAC Patron Survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FYJS9FK>
For information & reservations, call 301-441-8770 or email: info@greenbeltartscenter.org or BOOK TICKETS ONLINE at www.greenbeltartscenter.org
Coming Soon to the Greenbelt Arts Center:
May 24 – A Moon for the Misbegotten
June 21st – An Unexpected Guest
Greenbelt Arts Center
123 Centerway • Greenbelt, MD 20770 • Located underneath the Greenbelt CO-OP

Obituaries

In Memoriam

Jennifer White

My family was saddened to learn of the death of Jennifer White. For the past 14 years we enjoyed talking with Jennifer when riding the Metrobus or when seeing her around town. We learned she was living with the same, often difficult, medical condition as my husband, Shawn. Jennifer did not let her challenges stop her from living life to the fullest.

Jennifer was very proud not only of her job but also of her ability to travel safely and independently using public transportation to get to her office in downtown Washington. She would tell us how she would get up at 4:30 a.m. in order to arrive at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency.

She was a dedicated employee. At the relatively young age of 40 she had already given 18 years of service to her employer. We were happy she received an award from the commissioner of her agency.

While Jennifer was dedicated to her job, she also looked forward to vacations and holidays. Jennifer knew how to celebrate life. Every year, as her birthday approached, she would talk about her special day and how she would celebrate. She loved her family and enjoyed shopping for Christmas gifts for each member. She would tell us how pleased she was she finished early, ahead of most people. She also enjoyed donning seasonal hats.

Jennifer was kind and considerate, looking out for the needs of others. Although she had impaired vision herself, she would watch out for my husband and me when we boarded the bus. When the bus was crowded, she would tell us where an empty seat was. When we would disembark from the bus she would say, "Be careful and watch your step."

Jennifer, it was a pleasure traveling with you these many years. As we continue on our life journeys, we will think of you and remember to be careful and to watch our step. That is good advice for everyone to have. Thank you, Jennifer.

— Laura O'Neil

Civil War History Lecture Offered

On Tuesday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m. the Laurel Library will host the Montpelier Mansion April History Lecture. Vincent Leggett will portray Charles Ball, a Calvert County slave who was sold to the deep South, escaped and returned to Southern Maryland to fight, as a free man, against the British in the War of 1812. This presentation is free.

Communnity Church Has Octtava Spring Concert

The Octtava Piano Duo, comprised of pianists Wei-Der Huang and her friend and colleague Hsien-Ann Meng, will perform a spring concert at the Greenbelt Community Church on Sunday, April 14 at 4 p.m. Works by Saint-Saëns, Chopin, Glinka and Mozart will be featured. The Octtava Piano Duo performs both four-hand and two-piano repertoires and will also perform piano and organ duets at the concert.

All are invited to attend.

The two women, friends since meeting during their graduate studies, have collaborated for 11 years. Both earned Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance degrees from the University of Maryland and serve on the piano faculty at Howard Community College. Dr. Huang is also the organist and choir director at Greenbelt Community Church.

The Octtava Piano Duo has performed in Strathmore Hall, Levine School of Music, Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Peabody Institute and Sum-



Pianists Wei-Der Huang and Hsien-Ann Meng will perform at the Greenbelt Community Church on Sunday, April 14.

ner School Museum. The duo has commissioned and premiered works by well-known Taiwanese composer Sally Mei-Chun Chen. In 2003 they performed by invitation in San Francisco and Taiwan.


The artists have been praised for their "as-one" sound and heartfelt performance in a diversity of piano selections.

Greenbelt Community Church is located at Hillside and Crescent Roads. Donations will be accepted at the concert.




Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410
Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor
Worship Service 10 a.m.





The world of humanity is like a tree, the nations or peoples are the different limbs or branches of that tree and the individual human creatures are as the fruits and blossoms thereof. (Abdu'l-Baha)

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
1-800-22-UNITE 301-345-2918
Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com www.bahai.us



ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4322

Mass Schedule:
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe



Greenbelt Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Hillside & Crescent Roads
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings
www.greenbeltucc.org
Sunday Worship
10:15 a.m.
Clara Young, Interim Pastor

"A church of the open mind, the warm heart, the aspiring soul, and the social vision..."

Earth Day Service at Mishkan Torah

Saturday, April 20 is Earth Day and will be celebrated at Mishkan Torah with special Synaplex Sabbath services to which all are welcome. There are free Earth Day-related environmentally themed activities for all age groups.

At 9:30 a.m. the traditional Mishkan Torah service will be held. At 10 a.m. the Karp Family School morning meeting will feature stories and songs with an Earth Day theme.

The sermon will begin at about 10:30 a.m. unless enough people attend the alternative outdoor service described below. In that case the sermon and subsequent discussion on a Jewish environmental theme will begin

at noon.

The alternative service at 10:30 a.m. led by Darelynn Fung and Rebecca Lemus will be in a prayer circle format that uses the traditional service as a guideline and adds other prayer focusing on environmentalism. If weather permits, it will be held outdoors.

At 11 a.m. Bret Goldstein will lead the youngest in a Tot Shabbat service for families with children 5 and younger that will include Earth Day stories, songs, crafts and snacks.

At 12:30 p.m. the celebratory program ends with an Earth Day-themed Kiddush, co-sponsored by the Social Action Committee, which will pass out environmental literature.



Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

Sunday at 10 a.m.
Rev. Diane Teichert
See our website: www.pbuuc.org



CHRISTIANITY AND ENVIRONMENTALISM: FRIEND OR FOE?

April 17th at 7:30pm
Greenbelt Baptist Church
101 Greenhill Road Greenbelt, MD 20770
(301)474-4212 www.greenbeltbaptist.org

Guest speaker Andy Johnson

Dr. Johnson, PhD in Agronomy from Texas A&M, served the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture as an advisor on the impacts of agriculture on the environment. He is currently an associate pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church.



St. George's Episcopal Church


Join us around a table where all are welcome!

Services

- Sundays
8 a.m. simple, quiet service (no music)
10 a.m. main service
(music includes a mixture of acoustic guitar, piano and organ music)
- Wednesdays
7 p.m. service with healing prayers (no music)

7010 Glenn Dale Road (Lanham-Severn Road & Glenn Dale Road)
301-262-3285 | rector@stgeo.org | www.stgeo.org






BERWYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Mary Pullen - Pastor
301-474-7573
6301 Greenbelt Road
Berwyn Heights, MD 20740

Worship : Sun 11:00 am - 12:00 pm (Child Care Available)
Sunday School : Sun 9:30 am - 10:30 am
Office Hours : Mon, Thu, Fri 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Tue, Wed 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

"A hospitable, multicultural community of faith"





Catholic Community of Greenbelt
MASS
Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building
ALL ARE WELCOME.



Mishkan Torah Congregation
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Jonathan Cohen Cantor Phil Greenfield

Friday evening services 8:00 PM except first Friday of the month, when children's service begins at 7:30 PM

Saturday morning services - 9:30 AM
Children's Education, Adult Education, Social Action, etc.

For further information call 301 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Conservative and Reconstructionist



Condolences to the family and friends of Jennifer White, 41, who died March 28. At her memorial service April 6, the Assistant Commissioner of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency, where White was a valued employee, presented an honorary flag to her parents.

Congratulations to:
– Eleanor Roosevelt High School Coach Brendan O’Connell, who was named Boys’ Basketball Coach of the Year by The Washington Post. In his eighth year at ERHS, O’Connell guided the Raiders to a Maryland 4A state title for the first time, after having been a 2012 runner-up. The team also won the county championship game in its first appearance. O’Connell has a 171-45 career record at Eleanor Roosevelt with six Maryland 4A South titles, four in a row. Way to go, coach; and way to go, team!
– Former Greenbelter and News Review staffer Meta Lagerwerff, who celebrated her 90th birthday on April 6 with family and friends at her Hillhaven residence.

Send us your reports of new babies, awards, honors, etc. to share with our readers. We’d especially like to hear more from neighbors in Greenbelt East and Greenbelt West (Franklin Park). To send information for “Our Neighbors” email us at news-review@verizon.net or leave a message at 301-474-6892.

– Kathleen McFarland

April Forest Preserve Walk Is Saturday

The next Forest Preserve 10th Anniversary walk will be held starting at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 13 and leaving from Northway Fields. It will be a special “Walk the Wild Path” walk led by nature-based educator Joe Murray and Jim Soule.

All are invited to join in a walk in the forest with native eyes, traveling back in time to see what was here many years ago and how native cultures lived in harmony with the ecosystem. Native peoples lowered disease, increased biodiversity and animal populations where they traveled. Hikers will identify edible, medicinal and useful plants.

The walk will take two to two-and-a-half hours. Long pants, long sleeves, socks and closed toe waterproof or hiking shoes are recommended, along with repellants for mud, ticks and poison ivy. Bring a bottle of water to drink and to wash plants, pen and paper, binoculars or a hand lens and available plant and wildlife field guides. Light snacks will be served at the end of the hike.

Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday
10am – 4pm

Good, clean clothes for women, men and children!
Shoes, jewelry, books, etc.

6905 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, Md. 301-345-5111



City Information

MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK OF
APRIL 15-19

Monday, April 15 at 8:00 pm, **COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION**, re: Social Services at the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and Streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov

Wednesday, April 17 at 8:00 pm, **COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION, Re: Public Works** at the Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000.

FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY

Please be advised that cutting wood, branches, trees, etc... in the forest preserve is against the law. If you observe and such activity, please report it to the Greenbelt Police at 301-474-7200.

To learn more about the Greenbelt Forest Preserve, download the brochure available at www.greenbeltmd.gov/boards_committees/FPAB.pdf

LIFE GUARDS NEEDED!

The Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center is looking for life guards. You can get trained right here in Greenbelt! To qualify for the Life Guarding Class, you must take the Life Guarding Pre-Test. being offered on the following dates. Cost for test is \$5.

- 2 Session Test will be offered on April 16 & 18 from 6-9:30pm at the GAFC, 101 Centerway. Class ID number is 257180-1
- A one Session Test will be offered on Saturday, April 20th from 1-8pm at the GAFC, 101 Centerway. Class ID number is 257180-2

You must register for these tests. Please download the Greenbelt Recreation Activity Guide at www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation for more information. You may also call 301-397-2204.

Life Guard Training Classes will be offered to those who qualify **at a cost**. Classes begin April 27th or April 30th. Information on these classes are also available in the Recreation Activity Guide, www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation

Join the Recreation Department arts program staff!



Applications available at www.greenbeltmd.gov. Please direct questions and completed applications to Nicole DeWald, Arts Supervisor: ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov.

Now accepting applications for two year-round, part-time positions:

Arts Education Specialist
Help coordinate visual arts classes and workshops for all ages. Help produce Artful Afternoons and other special events. 20 hrs/wk. \$12—\$17/hr.

Arts Program Assistant
Promote arts programs through print and online media. Help produce Artful Afternoons and other special events. Provide general program assistance. 12-15 hrs/wk. \$12—\$15/hr.

Open until filled.

VACANCIES ON
BOARDS &
COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on:
Advisory Planning Board, Arts Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board and Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability
For information call 301-474-8000.

FREE EYE CLINIC

Greenbelt Residents who meet certain requirements are eligible to receive free eye glasses through the Maryland Optometric Association’s free eye clinic on June 21st 2013 at the Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road.

To qualify, you must be a U.S. citizen, have no vision insurance (if you are insured by Medicaid or Primary Adult Care, you can still qualify), have not used this program in the last 12 months, and family income must be no more than 200% of federal poverty level (no more than \$21,780 for a family of one, \$29,420 for a family of two, \$37,060 for a family of three, and you may call for further assistance).

In order to participate and receive free eye glasses, you must call Greenbelt CARES/ the GAIL Program to register at 301-345-6660. Call ASAP, spots will fill up quickly! Once registered, you will be provided with the required forms that must be filled out to participate and you will be given an appointment time on June 21st.

HAVE YOU VISITED THE
GREENBELT ANIMAL
SHELTER LATELY?

550-A Crescent Road
(behind Police Station)

Give us a call 301-474-6124
Come out and visit all of the available pets!

The shelter is open on Wednesdays from 4-7pm and on Saturdays from 9am-12pm or by appointment.

See all our pets on Facebook!



Special Program Through May 11!
BARTER FOR BARKS: DONATE TO ADOPT

Donate your time, dog biscuits, cat litter, animal food or any amount of monetary donation to take home a new best friend. You must qualify as an adopter prior to the animal going home. This includes an application, signing a contract and agreeing to a home check.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!
www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt
Visit Greenbelt CityLink www.greenbeltmd.gov

CELEBRATION OF SPRING-EARTH
DAY-PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, April 20

PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE,
555 CRESCENT ROAD:
10:00am-2:00 pm

Come out to the Public Works Facility to enjoy demonstrations, tours, and hot dogs & light refreshments. For more information contact Public Works at 301-474-8004.

EARTH DAY AND ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION,
SPRINGHILL LAKE RECREATION CENTER
12:00pm-3:00pm

Join the City and CHEARS in installing rain barrels, planting native plants, and addressing erosion and storm water quality issues. Members of the Advisory Committee on Trees will celebrate Arbor Day with a tree planting at 2:00pm. We will offer a guided tour of significant trees in Greenbelt at 3:00pm. For more information about Earth Day, Arbor Day or the Tree Tour contact Lesley Riddle at 301-474- 8004.

CELEBRATION OF SPRING,
SPRINGHILL LAKE RECREATION CENTER
2:00pm-6:00pm

Come enjoy arts and crafts, activities, performances, food and music with the Greenbelt Recreation Department and your neighbors and friends. Children and parents alike will be delighted on this fun filled day. This will be the perfect family event to help shake off the cold days of winter as we spring into action during our Celebration of Spring. Please call 301-474-0646, the weather information hotline, the morning of the event for updated event status.

DONATION DROP-OFF

American Rescue Workers

Saturday, April 13, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.
Parking lot between City Office and the Community Center Info: City of Greenbelt Recycling Office at 301-474-8308.

SOUTH CORE continued from page 1

recreation needs.

In an overview, Craze said that while the development team is new, plans for the South Core remain substantially unchanged since late last year when the city council reviewed amendments for a development agreement with SunTrust, subsequent to the bank’s foreclosure on the property. Still in the plan are townhouses on the east side of the development and a rental apartment complex on the west side.

What is now a large blank area on the map north of the apartments, however, had been originally slotted for condominiums over commercial space.

Residential construction currently planned includes a total of 644 units to be built in two phases. In Phase I, 302 rental apartments, 115 townhouses and 92 condominiums will be built. In Phase II, 97 townhouses and 38 condominiums will be added.

Phase III

The area originally planned for condos over commercial is now tagged Phase III Future Development and will be reconceptualized because of market conditions. The case had been made during the discussions with SunTrust that residential dwellings above commercial space has not worked well in relatively isolated suburban locations.

A further concern is that no type of retail would work there. Craze said one possibility under consideration is an additional housing type for that area: smaller, 16’-wide townhouses that would extend the range of townhouse price points and options offered on the site.

Phase III is the only area where the city will need to make significant decisions. When the developers complete a plan for Phase III, it will have to go back to the city council for review as a new Detailed Site Plan (DSP).

Rivera said they expect to market the apartments and soon hope to have a buyer. Depending on which changes the new apartment developers may wish to make, the plan for the apartments may be able to be reviewed by council as a minor change to an already approved DSP.

The largest area of the project, the townhouses, is slated to go through the county planning board as an administrative revision since only relatively minor architectural changes are included. Craze said the city could also choose to review the townhouse changes administratively.

New Players

Rivera introduced the new development team. German, leader of the Woodlawn Development Group, said Woodlawn is functioning as the development arm of NVR and is a joint venture of NVR and Morgan Stanley Real Estate. He said they have become increasingly active in Prince George’s County, in addition to their work in Virginia, Washington and elsewhere in Maryland. Earlier this year, they purchased the Oak Creek Community in Upper Marlboro, bought Fairwood in Bowie several years ago from Rouse and have another project on Piscataway Road in Accokeek called the Preserves.

Ryan Homes and NVHomes are known under the corporate name of NVR, Inc. Rivera said that with NVR as the parent company, Woodlawn would develop the lots and Ryan Homes and

A Condensed History

After years of negotiation, in May 2005 a development agreement was entered into by the city, Metroland Developers, LLC and Metropark, LLC that included covenants for the development of both the North and South Cores of Greenbelt Station. Only one agreement was needed since both areas were being developed by the same party.

When the economy stalled, however, so did development. Nor was the financial crisis improved by legal conflicts on the North Core, bribery investigations and the eventual bankruptcy of Metropark, the entity that was developing the South Core.

With foreclosure on the property by SunTrust Bank in 2011, the property was turned over for handling to the bank’s real estate holding company, CRM Mid-Atlantic Properties.

Once the ownership of the two cores was thus divided, it became necessary to separate, update and amend the previously conjoined agreements. As part of the new agreement, SunTrust was to proceed immediately with construction of the roundabout that is now operational at Metro Access Drive and Cherrywood Lane. SunTrust also agreed to construct a pedestrian trail connection from the South Core to the Greenbelt Station train platform.

Marketing Problems

At the same time, SunTrust had identified what it believed to be

NVHomes will actually build the townhouses and condos.

Their goal is to start selling units in September from trailers on the Greenbelt Road end of the site, where model homes will also be located, begin building in the fall and have residents moving in by spring 2014. Build-out of all three phases would be completed in late 2017 to early 2018.

Rivera went through their presentation in greater detail. Two sizes of townhouses are planned. The 20’-wide townhouses, which have their garages located in back, will be constructed by Ryan Homes. The 24’-wide townhouses will be constructed by NVHomes and have their garages in the front. Full brick treatments are planned on the fronts of the townhouses throughout, with vinyl siding on the backs and with either full or partial brick on the sides, depending on the level of visibility.

Two-over-Two

NVHomes will also construct the 130 planned condominiums, which will be of two different sizes. Although the condo buildings will look rather like four-story townhouses, they are called two-over-two (2/2) units and are effectively one two-story townhouse placed on top of another.

Noting that the living and dining areas of the upper condo will be above the bedrooms of the lower one and that the stairwell to the upper unit shares a wall with the bedroom of the lower unit, Councilmember Ed Putens asked what plans were in place for sound insulation between the units. Fishman described the methods Ryan has been using to treat floors, ceilings and walls to attenuate sound and to provide fireproofing.

Davis said she had thought the condominium market was bad, cit-

problems in the original plans that would prohibit it from marketing the project. The amount of existing commercial development in the area would make it impossible to market the quantity of local retail that had been specified for the South Core.

SunTrust asked to have more townhouses in lieu of the condos-over-retail that had been planned, as well as to make some changes in the townhouse mix in the already-approved Detailed Site Plan.

SunTrust eventually hired the Roseview Group, a private real estate investment and advisory firm that assists large financial institutions to manage and dispose of distressed and foreclosed commercial real estate. They were asked to develop a strategic plan to stabilize the property, mitigate future development risks and coordinate the eventual disposition of the property.

According to its own statement, Roseview successfully renegotiated three development agreements and modified existing zoning approvals that increased the value of the property by about \$10 million over the course of 18 months, with the sale to NVR, Inc. closing at \$26.575 million on February 27.

For a more detailed history of the development of both cores of Greenbelt Station, see story in the February 2, 2012 issue of this paper.

ing experience in Greenbelt East. Fishman replied that it depended on the type of condo. He said they had not had problems in marketing the new 2/2 construction.

As an example, he named Hall Station off Central Avenue in south Bowie. Rivera suggested doing a tour of some of these locations or developing a slide tour if councilmembers were interested.

Energy Star

The homes comply with high Energy Star efficiency standards and NVR goes beyond the minimum requirement to test each home. Energy Star certification requires that homes be 30 percent more efficient than houses built in 2006. NVR’s homes test at 40 percent better than those built in 2006.

Price points on the units are expected to range from the upper \$200s to the low \$300s for the 2/2 condominiums. If the 16’-wide townhouses are built, prices will range from the low to upper \$300s for the three sizes of townhouses.

Councilmembers raised questions about such matters as colors of trim, parking and site amenities previously approved under the development agreement. Craze and Rivera tried to keep the discussion from veering too far into previously charted territory. The amenities had been spelled out in the approved revised development agreement and the developer’s costs for these items will kick in at defined points in the progression of the development.

According to McLaughlin, the Planning Department, as one of its management objections this year, expects to develop a draft plan for the amenities that council can work from. Craze gave assurance that all these matters would be carefully monitored.

Greenbelt Baseball

Major League Standings as of April 8

National League		American League	
	<u>W-L</u>		<u>W-L</u>
Cardinals	2-0	Orioles	0-0
Giants	1-0	Tigers	0-0
Nationals	0-0	Athletics	0-1
Cubs	0-1	Indians	0-1

Major League Schedule April 15 through 20

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Games</u>
Mon., April 15	6 p.m.	Orioles vs. Cubs
Tues., April 16	6 p.m.	Cardinals vs. Giants
Wed., April 17	6 p.m.	Athletics vs. Tigers
Thurs., April 18	6 p.m.	Nationals vs. Indians
Friday, April 19	6 p.m.	Tigers vs. Giants
*Friday, April 19	7 p.m.	Orioles vs. Athletics
Sat., April 20	10 a.m.	Cubs vs. Nationals
Sat., April 20	1 p.m.	Indians vs. Cardinals

Most games are played at McDonald Field off Southway.
*Game played at Braden #2.

REVENUES continued from page 1

collection fees to commercial customers. It was also noted that tenant leases for use of space in the Greenbelt Community Center were due for renegotiation and some added funds might be achieved there. Williams noted savings the city had achieved by no longer investing currently unneeded cash in certificates of deposit which are currently paying very low interest rates. The city achieves better cost savings by keeping the money in its checking accounts and thereby reducing bank service charges. While every penny counts and small savings here and there, if enough of them, can add up, the impact of these changes upon the budget individually is minimal.

Budget Reductions

In his budget message, McLaughlin listed a number of changes that result in \$308,200 in cost reductions for the city that have been included in the proposed budget. While not discussed, the proposals include reducing the number of replacement police car purchases to save \$70,000.

The improved response of apartment managers in preventing and correcting code violations enables the city to reduce its number of Community Development code inspectors by eliminating one vacant position at a savings of \$60,000. However, McLaughlin noted that apartment owners are suggesting that code inspection fees should be reduced as well.

A program to purchase more toters for residents to use for recycling, with the city making partial purchases over a number of years, is proposed to not be funded this year, saving \$8,000. McLaughlin noted that those residents who have received the toters like them. Also well received is the city purchasing leaf bags for GHI residents, another program proposed by McLaughlin to be cut to save \$5,000. Davis noted that these residents already receive pickup service of leaves at the door. McLaughlin responded that raking leaves to the curb, as was

once done, creates numerous problems and unsightly common areas and that the main reason for the city providing the bags was to prevent use of non-biodegradable plastic bags.

Sign Interpreters

McLaughlin also proposed using sign language interpreters for televised broadcasts of council meetings only when specifically requested, to save another \$4,000. Councilmembers appeared to be skeptical of doing that noting that there is a large number of hearing-impaired residents in Greenbelt. Both Davis and Councilmember Leta Mach asked that restoration of these funds be placed on the council’s annual “wish list” of possible budget changes to be considered when final decisions are made.

Davis questioned one of the listed accomplishments for the current year provided by McLaughlin, that of use of the University of Maryland shuttle. She noted that only 90 non-university connected residents had signed up for using the shuttle service, paying fees of \$10 each, but that the cost to the city to offer the program was much greater. McLaughlin felt the program needed more time to become established noting that College Park has more than 300 users.

Mach asked about funding for the use of a portion of the old Greenbelt Middle School building. How the school would be used was not yet resolved, McLaughlin said. The budget includes \$50,000 for recreational programs to use part of the old building.

McLaughlin also responded to inquiries about renovating the Old Greenbelt Theatre movie house saying that city capital budgets included \$432,100 for the project with \$380,000 of other non-city funds being obtained for the project. He could not give a date for when the project would begin, however. It had once been expected that work would begin early this year.

Analysis

Will Taxes Go Up or Down? Good News for Homeowners

APRIL 20

continued from page 1

by James Giese

Actually, homeowners have received the bad news already. Because of the national housing slump and the particularly poor housing market in Prince George’s County, the Maryland State Office of Assessments and Taxation has found that over the past three years most owner-occupied homes have declined in value as compared to what they were three years ago in 2009. That means if you want or need to sell your home, you will probably get less for it. Homeowners have already been notified of their reassessments. On average, they are down 20 percent for single family homes (including GHI), 21 percent for townhomes and 40.5 percent for condominiums).

The good news is that if your assessment is lower, the amount of real estate property taxes that you will need to pay for the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013, will also be less than for the past year. This can be said even though the various governments that bill you for taxes have not yet levied them. That is because the largest levier of property taxes, Prince George’s County, which uses taxes to pay for the cost of schools and county services, is subject to a tax levy limit and can make only minor adjustment to individual property tax levies.

While other taxing agencies, including the City of Greenbelt,

are not subject to tax levy limits, any rate increases they may choose to levy are not expected to be sufficient to offset the reductions in property assessments. City Manager Michael McLaughlin has proposed a 2-cent increase in the city’s property tax rate, which amounts to a 2.5 percent rate increase.

While the manager proposes, council disposes. At this time, it is uncertain if council will go for any tax rate increase, but if they do, it will come no where near the overall 11.3 percent reduction in assessed valuations from that of the previous year.

Homestead Tax Credits

All rules have exceptions, and the one applying here has to do with homeowners who have been receiving homestead tax credits. When property values are inflating lickity-split, Maryland law limits property assessment from being increased by more than 10 percent a year on owner-occupied properties. Even with the more recent decline in property values, some long-term homeowners have been benefiting from this tax credit. If they are, their property assessment can still go up by as much as 10 percent, and their city taxes could go up as much as 12.5 percent. However, the current reassessments have ended many of the homestead tax credits. City Finance Department estimates show the dollar value of these credits to be \$87,200 for the new fiscal

year, as compared to \$433,400 for the current year.

Other Properties

The one category of property that is doing well in Greenbelt is rental apartment properties. Assessments on rental properties increased by an average of 10.7 percent, reflecting the fact that the poor owner-occupied housing market, a downturn in the economy and tougher mortgage-financing requirements has turned many people into apartment renters. This has encouraged property owners to upgrade their properties and raise their rental rates. According to the results of a survey made by the city, representatives of all major apartment projects in the city claimed occupancy rates in excess of 90 percent, with some claiming full occupancy. These are very significant figures, considering that apartment turnover rates can exceed 25 percent a year.

For the city finances, commercial property reassessments were also bad news, but not as bad as for owner-occupied homes. Commercial property was down 8 percent from what it was for this year. Cut backs in the space program affecting Goddard Space Flight Center has probably contributed to this downturn.

Overall, property values were down 11.3 percent from the previous year and down over 20 percent since fiscal year 2011, the peak year for city assess-

ments. Residential properties comprise 64 percent of the city’s taxable property values and commercial 36 percent. Single family residential properties (2,494) compose 22 percent of taxable property value, as do rental apartments properties (33). Townhouse properties (1,424) compose 12 percent of the city’s taxable property values and condominiums (1,544), 8 percent.

If you are a typical homeowner who looks on the bright side of things as relates to taxes, everything looks good. Your taxes won’t go up, no matter what happens – even if council does approve a tax rate increase. However, if you are one who looks with a critical eye, lifting up rocks to look under, you will decide that your taxes could be even lower, if council will only cut the budget proposed by the manager.

is a guided walk around the preserve led by Joe Murray. Those planning to join should meet at the Northway Fields parking lot at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 13.

Arbor Day

Greenbelt recognizes Arbor Day annually in keeping with its designation as a Tree City USA. Charles Jackman, chair of the Advisory Committee on Trees (ACT), told council that plans for the Arbor Day celebration include the planting of 10 native trees, including paw-paw, persimmon and silver maple near Indian Creek around 3 p.m., and a tour of significant trees around the Springhill Lake area to be led by Brian Townsend.

Jackman told council that none of the trees recently severely pruned by Pepco were “significant” and that the utility company will replace trees that have been lost in the pruning process.

HALL RENTALS

(CATERING)

Luncheons–B'Day Parties–Anniversaries–Weddings

Greenbelt American Legion Post 136

6900 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, Md.

301-345-0136

managerpost136@comcast.net

Contact Steve Messer

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21						

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SUPERMARKET

Monday thru Saturday 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. 301-474-0522

PHARMACY

Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. until 7 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. 301-474-4400
Closed Sunday

Greenbelt

COOP

Supermarket Pharmacy

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Fresh Value Pack Chicken Thighs or Drumsticks		Sweet Crunchy Seedless Grapes		Dannon Assorted Yogurts 6 oz.		Green Giant Assorted Boxed Vegetables 7-10 oz.		Fresh Catch Catfish Fillets			
Fresh Value Pack Bone-In Center Cut Pork Chops		Fresh Asparagus Tenders		Minute Maid Orange Juice Assorted 59 oz.		Healthy Choice Healthy Steamers or Complete Meals Assorted 9.5-10.8 oz.		Sea Best Frozen Tilapia Fillets 1 lb.			
Fresh Value Pack Boneless Beef Chuck Steaks		Red Ripe Whole Personal Seedless Watermelon each		Imperial Vegetable Spread quarters 16 oz.		Turkey Hill Ice Cream Assorted 1.5 qt.		26-30 Count Extra Large Domestic Shrimp 2 lb.			
Grocery Bargains						Grocery Bargains					
Kraft Assorted Macaroni & Cheese 5-7.5 oz.		Hunt's Pasta Sauces Assorted 24 oz.				Kellogg's Original Corn Flakes 12 oz.		Nabisco Newtons Assorted 8-15.4 oz.			
Bumble Bee Solid White Tuna 5 oz.		Barilla Spaghetti or Macaroni Asst. 9-16 oz.				Ken's Family Size Salad Dressings Assorted 16 oz.		Wisk Liquid Laundry Detergent 50 oz.			
Deli		Bakery		Natural & Gourmet		Health & Beauty		Beer & Wine			
Deli Gourmet Cooked Ham		Fresh Store Baked Hoagie Rolls 6 pk.		Hero Gourmet Fruit Preserves Assorted 12 oz		Ultra Brite Advanced Whitening Toothpaste 6 oz.		Lindeman's Bin Series Wines 750 ML			
Deli Gourmet Swiss Cheese		Fresh Store Baked Original 8-inch Apple Pie		Kind Natural Nutrition Bars Assorted 1.4 oz.		Allegra 24 Hr. Allergy Relief 15 pack		Busch Beer 6 pk.–12 oz. cans			

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Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/index.htm>, link in left frame to "Weekly Report" or http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/weekly_report.pdf. Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Vandalism

April 1, 3:16 p.m., Crescent Road. A Greenbelt youth was petitioned for malicious destruction of property. He was released to a guardian pending action by the Department of Juvenile Services.

April 2, 1:36 p.m., Crescent Road at Hillside. Graffiti was found on the underpass walls.

Trespassing

March 30, 7:43 p.m., Beltway Plaza. A 49-year-old nonresident man was arrested and charged with trespassing on private property and disorderly conduct. He was released on citations pending trial.

Disorderly Conduct

March 30, 2:03 a.m., 7700 block Greenbrook Drive. A 21-year-old Greenbelt man was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. He was released on citation pending trial.

Burglary

April 1, 10:09 p.m., 9300 block Edmonston Road. Jewelry and electronics were taken.

Vehicle Crime

A blue 1997 Nissan Maxima with Md. tags was taken from the 6400 block Capitol Drive.

A set of Md. tags reported stolen by Hyattsville City police was recovered in 14 Court Hillside. No arrests were made.

Five reports of thefts from autos were received: Beltway Plaza parking lot (iPod, iPad and handbag), 9000 block Breezewood Terrace (sunglasses and a check), 8000 block Mandan Road (parts of a stereo system), 14 Court Hillside Road (set of Md. tags). An attempted theft from an auto occurred in the 7800 block Mandan Road.

Four incidents of vandalism occurred: Greenbelt Metro park-

Red Light Program Seen as a Success

The Greenbelt Police Department considers its Red Light Camera Program a success for 2012, with the number of citations more than doubling from the previous year. From 2006 to 2011, the number of citations remained stable and the completion of construction on Kenilworth Avenue/I-95 along with improved technology have both been suggested as factors for the increase in 2012. Newly-implemented technology captures images of vehicles that make right turns on red without stopping and provides digital quality video of violators nearing, then proceeding through red lights.

Six out of eight approved cameras were in use throughout 2012. Two cameras (eastbound Greenbelt Road at Hanover Parkway and southbound Kenilworth Avenue at Cherrywood Lane) had been out of service since 2008 during construction and crash data indicated their operation was unnecessary once construction was complete. The year's highest number of violations occurred westbound on Greenbelt Road at Cherrywood Lane (#359), while westbound on Greenbelt Road at Mandan Road (#352) saw fewest. Since the Red Light Program was installed by the City of Greenbelt in 2001, nearly 62,000 violators have been cited.

ing lot (set of tires was flattened), 7900 block Mandan Road (window was broken), Parkway (window was broken), and 6000 block Springhill Drive (vehicle was scratched).

A New K-9 Team in Town



— photo by MPO Kelly Lawson, Public Information Officer

MPO Robert Defibaugh and his K-9 companion "Dägo" are now patrolling the streets of Greenbelt. Defibaugh, a 6 year city police veteran and "Dägo," 2, from the Netherlands, graduated from Patrol Dog School in late December and recently went out on the street officially after completing a brief in-house field training program earlier in 2013.

ASG Meeting Talk Is With Tim Livengood

The next meeting of the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will be on Thursday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the Howard B. Owens Science Center, 9601 Greenbelt Road (adjacent to DuVal High School in Lanham).

Planetary astrophysicist Dr. Tim Livengood is the featured speaker and will present his "Beneath the Watery Moon," using neutron remote-sensing to explore the tenuous but real water cycle of the Moon. All are welcome.

Livengood, a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, received his Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins University Department of Physics and Astronomy. His thesis reported studies of Jupiter's aurora.



Member Comments Requested

The GHI Board of Directors welcomes feedback from members on the following draft policies:

Rules for Skylights (revision)
Comments due by April 12

Subleasing Policy (revision)
Unauthorized Rentals (new)
Unoccupied Units (new)
Comments due by April 20

Policies can be seen at www.ghi.coop in News & Alerts, or pick up a hard copy at the Administration Building.

Comments should be submitted via email to mgmtoffice@ghi.coop or written notes can be delivered to the Management Office, Attention: Sheri.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.

Call 1-866-411-TIPS.

People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 240-542-2145.

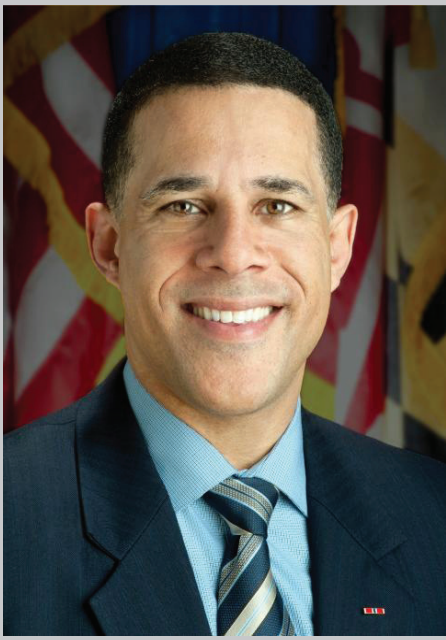
Reel & Meal Film "Vegucated"

On Monday, April 15 at 7 p.m. the monthly Reel & Meal at the New Deal Café free film to be screened is "Vegucated," sponsored by Green Vegan Networking. An optional vegan buffet is available for purchase at 6:30 p.m.

Vegucated, a feature-length documentary, follows three meat- and cheese-loving New Yorkers who agree to adopt a vegan diet for six weeks. Bacon-loving bachelor Brian eats out all the time; single mom Ellen prefers comedy to cooking; and college student Tesla avoids vegetables and bans beans. They have no idea much more than steak is at stake — the fate of the world may fall on their plates.

The post-screening discussion will be led by Gene Bauer, Dawn Moncrief and Philippe Orlando. Bauer is co-founder and president of Farm Sanctuary and hailed by Time Magazine as "the conscience of the food movement." His book, "Farm Sanctuary: Changing Hearts and Minds About Animals and Food," has been on Los Angeles Times and The Boston Globe best-seller lists. Moncrief is the Founding Director of A Well-Fed World, a DC-based hunger relief and animal protection organization. Both organizations helped sponsor the filming of Vegucated.

Orlando is a Greenbelter, vegan and fitness expert who actually shot the factory farming footage.



PUBLIC FORUM

Lieutenant Governor Anthony G. Brown

April 14th, 2013 @ 2pm

Greenbriar Condominium Association Terrace Room
7600 Hanover Parkway
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The Eleanor & Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club
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This is the first of a series of public forums for our members and the general public with candidates for state-wide office in the next election cycle.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information call (301) 220-1025 or send an email to president@rooseveltclub.org

A la carte refreshments by Chef Lou will be available for sale.

Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown At Dems Club Forum

by Konrad Herling

The Eleanor & Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club, in concert with the Greater Bowie Democratic Club, will sponsor the first in a series of public forums with candidates for state wide office beginning this Sunday afternoon, April 14 at 2 p.m., at the Greenbriar Community Building. Lt. Governor Anthony Brown is the guest speaker for the clubs' first forum.

Over the next year, area residents concerned about a wide array of issues ranging from health care, gun violence, transportation, education to the environment, will learn of the priorities of prospective candidates running for governor, attorney general and comptroller. Following each candidate's speech, there will be a question and answer session.

A brief biography of the Lieutenant Governor identifies a strong commitment to public service. While other prospective candidates share this commitment, Brown's energies have been directed toward expanding health care opportunities, improving the quality of education, veterans' affairs and reducing gun violence. His public service

has included over 25 years of service in the military, most recently as a colonel in the U.S. Army during the Iraq War.

Prior to serving in Maryland's House of Delegates (1998-2006), where he served as Majority Whip, and serving as Lt. Governor since 2007, this Harvard Law School graduate practiced law at the firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering with former Maryland Attorney General Stephen Sachs and renowned civil rights attorney John Payton. During his service he received the firm's Pro Bono Publico Award for his work representing indigent clients.

A leading advocate for adults to consider adoption, he and his wife, Karmen, have three children, one of whom is adopted.

Following the question and answer segment, those attending will have an opportunity to share their reactions to what they heard with friends, and to consider a variety of dishes, prepared by Chef Lou, available for purchase on an a la carte basis.

For more information call 301-220-1025.

Emergency Preparedness

Keeping Food Cold and Safe In Power Loss Emergencies

by Kenneth Silberman

Power outages may cause the loss of refrigeration for several days. It is important to know how to minimize food spoilage and reduce the risk of illness during an outage. Without electricity or a cold source, food stored in refrigerators and freezers may spoil and cause sickness.

For safe food storage the temperature in refrigerators needs to be 40° F because bacteria in food grow rapidly at temperatures between 40°and 140°F. When power is lost, keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed – a refrigerator that isn't opened will keep food cold about four hours.

When a power loss is for an extended period of time, dry ice is the best way to keep things cold. Twenty-five pounds of dry ice will keep a 10-cubic-foot freezer below freezing for three

or four days. Do not keep dry ice in a properly-functioning freezer because it will cause the unit to become too cold and it may shut off. Make sure dry ice does not come into direct contact with food. Wear dry, heavy gloves to avoid injury when handling dry ice.

Keep appliance thermometers in the refrigerator and freezer. Check the temperature once power is restored; if the freezer thermometer reads 40° F or below, the food is safe and may be refrozen.

If a thermometer has not been kept in the freezer, check each package of food to determine its safety. Do not rely on appearance or odor. If the food still contains ice crystals or is 40° F or below, it is safe to refreeze or cook. Refrigerated food should be safe as long as the power was

out no more than four hours.

Thawed food usually can be eaten if it is still "refrigerator-cold." It can be re-frozen if it still contains ice crystals. Discard any perishable food (such as meat, poultry, fish, eggs or leftovers) that has been above 40° F for two hours or more.

To be safe, remember, "When in doubt, throw it out."

The topic of the next article will be on what to keep if all food has been ruined. For more information about food safety during an emergency, visit <http://www.foodsafety.gov/> and <http://www.ready.gov/food>. For more information about Greenbelt-CERT, go to <http://www.tinyurl.com/greenbeltcert>.

Kenneth Silberman is the Greenbelt Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Coordinator.



GCAN Meeting Topic: Climate Peer Support

On Tuesday, April 16 at 7 p.m. the monthly meeting of the Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN) will be held in Room 114 at the Community Center.

The speaker will be National Institute for Peer Support founder Jim Driscoll, Ph.D., M.B.A., who will talk about Climate Peer Support.

It has been suggested by practical views and academic research that professionally staffed advocacy organizations will not be able to stop global warming and that growth of this social movement now needs volunteer leaders building one-on-one, face-to-face relationships among ongoing small groups which represent a broad base of people and groups. Dr. Driscoll will introduce the theory and practice of peer support used successfully in an 18-month pilot program to expand the climate change/sustainability movement in Tucson and now in Washington, D.C.

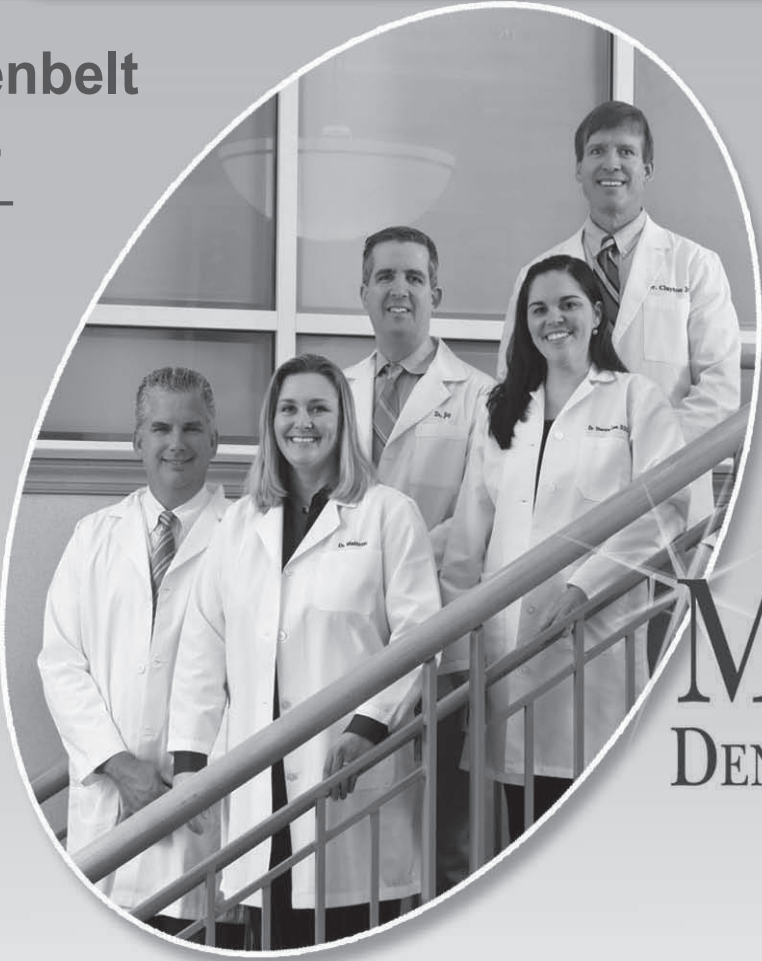
Driscoll's undergraduate degree and M.B.A. were from Harvard; his Ph.D. was from Cornell in organizational behavior. A Vietnam combat veteran, he has worked since 1982 in movements for peace and social and environmental justice and founded the Institute for Peer Support in 2004.

For more information email Lore Rosenthal, GCAN, at lore@simplicity-matters.org or call 301-345-2234.



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YARD SALES

9 LIVES YARD SALE – April 14, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Roosevelt Center. Do some spring cleaning for the community gardens and the Green Man Festival. To donate call 202-664-7572 or email stonesoupchef@live.com.

MOVING SALE – Free piano. Please call Sarah, 240-476-9485.

FLEA MARKET – Saturday, May 11, 2013, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., Glenn Dale Fire House, 11900 Glenn Dale Blvd., Glenn Dale, MD. 8 ft. space rental, \$15. For reservations and information, call 301-852-8540, leave a voicemail or text message or email us at auxgdfal8@aol.com.

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Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition “Food and Friendship” program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals must be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215.

All meals include bread and margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for April 15 to 19 are:

Monday – Orange juice, veal Parmesan, rotini and tomatoes, spinach, fresh fruit.

Tuesday – Grape juice, sliced turkey breast with gravy, whipped potatoes, broccoli, fresh fruit.

Wednesday – Pineapple juice, baked chicken breast with pineapple sauce, mixed beans, dilled carrots, heavenly fruit salad.

Thursday – Fruit punch, beef and peppers, lima beans, whole kernel corn, fresh fruit.

Friday – Apple juice, minestrone soup, tuna salad, tossed salad, pineapple tidbits.

NAMI Local Support Group Meets April 15

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will hold its New Carrollton Area Support Group meeting at the Hanko Building at Beckett Field, 8511 Legation Road, New Carrollton on Monday, April 15, from 10 a.m. to noon. This supportive work group prepares the mailing and provides other volunteer tasks while sharing their mental health experiences and each other’s challenges and solutions. For more information call Edward Bowles at 240-606-4352.

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Lymphedema Support Group Begins

Doctors Community Hospital will hold a free lymphedema support group on April 17, July 17, October 16 and December 18 from noon to 2 p.m. at the hospital campus North Building, 5th floor DSE room. To register, call 301-552-8144.

Musical Instrument Petting Zoo for Kids

On Sunday, April 14 at 3 p.m. the College Park Arts Exchange (CPAE) will hold a Musical Instrument Petting Zoo at the Old Parish House in College Park. Music Ed students will coach children to try out real instruments. Parents and children can enjoy free afternoon arts presentations with CPAE. The Old Parish House is located at 4711 Knox Road, College Park.

For more details email info@cpae.org or call 301-927-3013.

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A Review

Good Music, Art and Food
New Deal Café Is a Favorite

by Jessica Suss

The New Deal Café, which serves Lebanese food with a side of community, is thriving with its eclectic mix of music, art and special events.

The name comes from Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal program which gave new life to the United States after the Great Depression and created the planned community of Greenbelt. The café is located in Roosevelt Center – named to honor FDR during the bicentennial year of 1976.

“I love going for the great music on the weekends and the artwork,” Greenbelt resident Stephanie Love said. “I usually go with friends and enjoy a glass of wine.”

Nancy Melandry, who has been going to the Café for four years, says the music drew her. “When I first started going, the music was just average,” Melandry said. “But then Amethyst Dwyer became the volunteer music coordinator and she really kicked it up a notch.”

Melandry said the quality of the music has “skyrocketed” after Dwyer started booking the bands and that it isn’t just on the weekends that the community can hear talented groups.

“During the week you can hear some really great music,” Melandry said. “And since the bands only play for tips, you’d think they’d be reluctant to come in but they do. They say we’re a great crowd.”

The Café has gotten noticeably busier since Melandry started going, which she attributes mostly to Dwyer.

Weekends are bustling at the New Deal.

“I never had to make a reservation for dinner on the weekend before but now if there’s someone I really want to see I make sure I do,” Melandry said. “On the weekends sometimes, if a band has a following, a group will come and the locals say, ‘oh, who are they?’”

Melandry loves that the New Deal is in the neighborhood, comparing it to the famed “Cheers” bar where you’re always bound to see someone you know.

Love and Melandry aren’t the only ones who commune at the New Deal Café to catch up with friends.

University of Maryland alum Alice Mitchell goes to the Café every Sunday morning to hang out with friends and chat in sign language at the weekly Sign Language Brunch.

Having lived in eight states, in 2000 Mitchell stumbled upon Roosevelt Center while looking for a place of her own and, “it felt like the coffee shop ambiance I had loved in Madison, Wisc.”

Aside from the food, the New Deal Café offered Mitchell the interaction with the deaf community that she had been seeking. “The New Deal

was emblematic of the kind of community for which I was looking,” Mitchell said. “And having lived in those eight states I had long since figured out what was a good fit and what was not. The New Deal signaled ‘good fit’ to me.”

The Beginnings

The business side of the New Deal Café is operated by a board of directors, elected from the membership. This includes the president, secretary and treasurer as well as two board members without titles. The board’s job is make sure that the purpose of the cooperative serving as a water hole or “living room” for the community with a 1930s décor; offering light fare and being run professionally is executed.

The community of Greenbelt gathers itself in the Café for nightly live music events, bi-monthly art shows and guest speakers.

“[The New Deal Café] is my new favorite place for music,” Beltsville resident Jeri Crowley wrote on the Café’s Facebook page.

Founded in 1995, the Café offers up something for the varied residents of Greenbelt. Whether the public is looking for poetry, art, belly dancing or “just a good cup of coffee” according to the restaurant’s website, the New Deal Café offers a myriad of choices.

The restaurant has been plagued by problems since its inception including replacement of the restaurant’s hot plate and microwave with a cooperative-installed kitchen paid for by chef, Karim Kmaiha.

The problems grew so severe that the restaurant nearly closed in September 2007 because of loan debts. The staff switched to all-volunteer status for a period of time and the Café was closed on Mondays and Wednesdays to cut down on costs.

Co-op member loans helped keep the business afloat as well as donations from performing artists and community members.

As of December 2012 the New Deal Café’s total debts were just under \$12,000 according to their most recent budget summary.

Despite this, the Café also showed sales for 2012 fairly consistent with the previous year and ended 2012 with a gross bar income of nearly \$2,000 more than in 2011.

Kmaiha, who was hired in 2008, has brought new energy to the New Deal Café. He is also the restaurant manager and since his employment, the Café has been busy and, in the summer of 2012, listeners of WTOP FM voted the New Deal Café the best live music venue in D.C. area. The New Deal Café is kept afloat by faithful Greenbelt residents who have kept coming back despite bumps in the road.

Upcoming Events
At New Deal Café

Thursday, April 11 pianist Amy C. Kraft plays midday melodies from noon to 2 p.m., followed in the evening by an open microphone session with James and Martha from 7 to 9 p.m.

Friday, April 12 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. John Guernsey plays classical and jazz piano. Then Gina DeSimone & the Moaners headline with rock solid rhythm and chilling harmony from 8 to 11 p.m.

On Saturday, April 13 Guernsey plays up-tempo jazz piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m., with Cooking with Gas serving up blues, jazz and folk from 8 to 11 p.m.

Sunday, April 7 the weekly sign language brunch discussion is from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Jan Knutson plays jazz guitar from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. From 5 to 8 p.m. there will be a musical memorial tribute to long-time Café favorite Steve Miller featuring his bandmates in The Gliders from 5 to 8 p.m., along with the Scrub Pines, Raincrow and Steve Johnson and Kevin Miller of The Kings of Crownsville.

Next Week

On Monday, April 15 at 7 p.m. the regular monthly Reel & Meal at the New Deal will show “Vegucated,” which follows three meat and cheese-loving New Yorkers who agree to adopt a vegan diet for six weeks, preceded by an optional vegan buffet available for purchase at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 16 from 7 to 9 p.m. is the monthly poetry open microphone session.

On Wednesday, April 17 there will be a Pub Quiz from 7 to 9 p.m. – bring a team or form one on the spot to test knowledge on various topics. Thursday, April 18 pianist Amy C. Kraft plays midday melodies from noon to 2 p.m., with an evening open microphone session with Joe Harris from 7 to 9 p.m. On Friday, April 19 John Guernsey plays classical and jazz piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m., followed by psychedelia/jam band the Window Panes from 8 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, April 20 begins with Bruce Kritt on classical guitar from 4 to 6 p.m. Guernsey plays up-tempo jazz piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m. then The 8-Balls headline with music from the 60s and 70s from 8 to 11 p.m.

On Sunday, April 21 the weekly sign language brunch discussion is from 10:30 a.m. to noon; the Not 2 Cool Jazz Trio plays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by the monthly kid’s open microphone session for the whole family from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. In the evening from 5 to 7 p.m., there will be live Middle Eastern music and dancing, with musicians playing the oud, darbuka and riq.

Refuge Holds Spring Plant Walk Saturday

On Saturday, April 13 from 10 a.m. to noon, join a naturalist at the Patuxent Refuge North Tract to discover spring ephemerals. Field guide, water and magnifying glass are recommended. Programs are free, although donations are appreciated. Advance registration is required by calling 301-497-5887. Special needs can be accommodated with advance notice. This program is for all ages. For more information visit the website at patuxent.fws.gov.

The North Tract is located on Rt. 198 between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Rt. 32.

Together after Two Years!

by Jim Link

A wonderfully upbeat crowd of 40 descended on the New Deal Café to “sing the Siren song of poetry, to feel its necessary caress,” on Tuesday, March 19. This raucous, reverent, bawdy band celebrated the second anniversary of the Café’s open microphone poetry night, held from 7 to 9 p.m. every third Tuesday of the month.

There’s so much love and gratitude to spread around but I can offer only a fraction here.

That precious gem Amethyst energized the crowd with her boffo performance of Steve Trombulak’s “Bardic Circle Rap.”

“I’m thinkin’ ’bout poetry friend, words that bring you alive Shine a light, hold a mirror, cut to the bones with a knife.

You gotta bring it (bring it), bring everything you got

You gotta bring it (bring it), cool as ice or smokin’ hot.”

Shirley wittily complained of the increasingly draconian abuse of our fragile ecosystem: “Arrest the wind! Arraign the rain! Impeach the peach! Cross examine the snowflake! Beat up the night ’cause it’s black!

Let the millipedes be drawn and thousanded!”

Daniel serenaded his lady love in his “Engagement Poem,” claiming that “I grow weak”

Forest Preserve Museum Lecture

On Tuesday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m. there will be a free lecture on the ecological benefits of Greenbelt’s Forest Preserve in Room 201 at the Community Center. It is jointly sponsored by the Greenbelt Museum and the Greenbelt Forest Preserve as part of its 10-year celebration.

Elliott Campbell, Ph.D., will explore the benefits provided by forests. He will introduce the ways forest benefits can be quantified using environmental accounting, a method that considers cumulative energy in the environment.

Dr. Campbell earned his Ph.D. in environmental science from the University of Maryland, where he is currently a faculty research assistant. He resided in Greenbelt with his wife, Smiti Nepal.

Visit <http://www.greenbeltforestpreserve.org/> or <http://www.greenbeltmuseum.org> for details

Star Party Is Planned At City Observatory

On Saturday, April 13 the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt (ASG) will sponsor a star party at the City of Greenbelt Observatory at Northway Field. In addition to the observatory telescope, several members will set up their personal telescopes and binoculars for the enjoyment of all.

Observing will begin around 8:15 p.m., although telescopes may be set up earlier. In addition to Jupiter with its four Galilean moons, objects to be seen include several star clusters and nebulae, in particular the great nebula in Orion, an important star-forming region.

The star party will be canceled without notice if it is hopelessly cloudy. Attendees are asked to park in the ball field lot, not up on the hill unless bringing a telescope. All are welcome.

Pam wondered “where are the women Kerouacs? Do only men travel and quest . . . ?”

The Most Excellent Master of Ceremonies David revealed to us the mysteries of “My Underwear” and proudly announced that his poet son Devin has just won a \$50,000 college scholarship.

Rocky courageously gave voice to the downtrodden, the exiled, the marginalized, the unjustly scorned, victims burdened with bad press, in his “Letter to St. Patrick From a Snake.” “Why the hate, Patrick? Try to see our beauty, see our wisdom.”

Randi mourned the death of her daughter; John paid erotic homage to Susie’s navel ring; Janet mused that a poem need not be heroic but simply a solid worker; Charles touched us with “Galileo Seeing the Soul”; Julie tenderly bickered with her son in “The Last Word.” There was much else by many worthy others but it was Greek to me.

Let Timothy have the last word: “Poetry has the singular power to instruct, elevate, console, move and civilize . . . it can help us relish the beauty of the world, appreciate its sanctity, fight against its evils and bear its vicissitudes and sorrows.”

The next poetry open microphone session is on Tuesday, April 16.

Del-Mar-Va Glass Show April 27-28

The annual Del-Mar-Va Depression Glass Club’s 78th annual glass show returns to the area on Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, April 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Duval High School in Lanham. Dealers at the show specialize in Early American, Pattern, Elegant, Art Deco and Depression-era glassware, kitchenware, china, pottery and linen collectibles.

This year’s show features a special display of vintage American lamps including glass lamps of all descriptions and colors made in the 1920s and 1930s by Aladdin, McKee, Westmoreland and other companies.

The club will continue to offer its popular glass identification service without charge to those attending. Identification is performed by knowledgeable club members.

Duval High School is at 9880 Good Luck Road near the NASA Visitor Center and Museum. There is an admission fee. For directions and information call 301-565-2361 or 410-263-4192 or email ybrian@verizon.net.

Electrotherapy Is NAMI Workshop Topic

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Prince George’s County Chapter will hold its free monthly workshop on Thursday, April 18 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the New Carrollton Municipal Center, 6016 Princess Garden Parkway, New Carrollton.

This month’s topic is “Non-convulsive Electrotherapy,” which will be presented by William T. Regenold, M.D., associate professor of psychiatry and director, Division of Geriatric Psychiatry, University of Maryland Medical Center.